

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 361, 425

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...that have been raised which I cannot answer, I will not put the body through a discussion which may lead us nowhere anyway. And if the bar association is going to pay the entire amount, I'm going to withdraw this amendment. But I wanted to make it clear that I asked the Chief Justice to bring these to my attention, and maybe I didn't listen carefully enough. I had said they're paying 50 percent, and I got the impression--maybe he didn't give it, I might have just assumed--that the state would have to give the rest. But I can find out that, too. But Senator Thompson's issue is substantive enough for me to not proceed at this point, so I will withdraw that pending amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: It is withdrawn.

CLERK: Senator Chambers would move to amend with AM1454. (Legislative Journal pages 1393-1394.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers, to open on AM1454 to AM0521.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this is a matter that is very close to me. I might, but I'm not sure, file as many complaints on judges as anybody else or others put together. Until some kind of action is taken, that information heretofore has been confidential. Thanks to a bill the body enacted into law this time as a part of LB 361, the commission is going to produce a yearly report that will give information on what work they've been doing. Now if no disciplinary action is taken against a judge, that judge's name will not be mentioned, but the number of cases, the dispositions, the things that have heretofore been confidential or secret will be open to the light of day. As much of what any governmental agency can do that can be transparent and conducted in the open ought to be done so, ought to be handled in that way. What this amendment that I'm offering now would do is provide for the first year, '06, \$61,000 to the Judicial Qualifications Commission; and in '07, \$63,500. There is no private funding here. I cannot say why some things were not